

END OF CERVERA'S FLEET

SPANISH SHIPS DESTROYED BY AMERICAN WAR VESSELS.

THE ADMIRAL AND MANY OF HIS OFFICERS AND MEN MADE PRISONERS AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE.

Washington, July 4.—Shortly after noon to-day the following announcement of the destruction of Cervera's fleet was received from Admiral Sampson:

"Siboney, July 3.
"Secretary of the Navy: The fleet under my command offers the Nation, as a Fourth of July present, the destruction of the whole of Cervera's fleet. No one escaped. It attempted to escape at 9:30 a. m., and at 2 p. m., the last, the Cristobal Colon, had run ashore sixty miles west of Santiago, and has let down her colors.

"The Infanta Maria Teresa, Oquendo and Vizcaya were forced ashore, burned, and blown up within twenty miles of Santiago; the Furor and Pluton were destroyed within four miles of the port. Loss, one killed and two wounded. Enemy's loss probably several hundred from gun fire, explosions and drowning. About one thousand three hundred prisoners, including Admiral Cervera. The man killed was George H. Ellis, chief yeoman of the Brooklyn.

"SAMPSON."

GRATITUDE OF THE NATION.

The following message was sent to Admiral Sampson by the President:

"To Admiral Sampson, Playa del Este:
"You have the gratitude and congratulations of the whole American people. Convey to your noble officers and crews through whose valor new honors have been added to the Americans, the grateful thanks and appreciation of the Nation.

"WILLIAM M'KINLEY."

THANKS FROM SECRETARY LONG.

Secretary Long sent the following dispatch in reply to Admiral Sampson:

"Admiral Sampson, via Cuba.
"The Secretary of the Navy sends you and every officer and man of your fleet, remembering equally your comrades in the field, grateful acknowledgment of your heroism and success. All honor to the brave. You have maintained the glory of the American Navy.

"LONG."

STORY OF THE CHASE.

HOW SAMPSON'S FLEET RAN DOWN THE SPANIARDS.

Ten Miles West of the Entrance of the Harbor of Santiago de Cuba, Sunday, July 3, 4 p. m., by The Associated Press Dispatch Boat Wanda, via Kingston, Jamaica, July 4.—Admiral Cervera's fleet, consisting of the armored cruisers Cristobal Colon, Almirante Oquendo, Infanta Maria Teresa and Vizcaya, and two torpedo-boat destroyers, the Furor and the Pluton, which had been in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba for six weeks past by the combined squadrons of Rear-Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley, lies to day at the bottom of the Caribbean Sea, off the southern coast of Cuba.

The Spanish Admiral is a prisoner of war on the auxiliary gunboat Gloucester, and fifteen hundred Spanish officers and sailors, all of whom escaped the frightful carnage caused by the shells from the American warships, are also held as prisoners of war.

The Spaniards, when they found they would be permitted to live, adapted themselves comfortably to the situation, rolled their cigarettes and began playing cards among themselves.

The American victory is complete, and, according to the best information obtainable at this time, the American vessels were practically untouched, and only one man was killed, though the ships were subjected to the heavy fire of the Spaniards all the time the battle lasted.

CERVERA'S GALLANT DASH.
Admiral Cervera made a gallant dash for liberty and for the preservation of his ships this morning. In the face of overwhelming odds, with nothing before him but inevitable destruction or surrender if he remained any longer in the trap in which the American fleet held him, he made a bold dash from the harbor at the time the Americans least expected him to do so, fighting every inch of his way, even when his ship was ablaze and sinking.

The Americans saw him the moment he left the harbor, and began their work of destruction immediately. For an hour or two they followed the flying Spaniards to the westward along the shore line, sending shot after shot into their black hulls, tearing great holes in their steel sides and covering their decks with the blood of the killed and wounded.

It was about 9 o'clock this morning when the flagship Infanta Maria Teresa passed under the wall of Morro Castle and steamed out to sea. She was followed by the Cristobal Colon, the Vizcaya and the Oquendo, and last by the torpedo-boat destroyers Pluton and Furor.

The lookout on the American vessels, which were lying five or ten miles off the entrance to the harbor, sighted them immediately. Most of the American cruisers were at the usual Sunday morning quarters, without thought of any-

thing as surprising as the Spanish fleet getting past the sunken collier Merrimac.

EXCITING AND RAPID ACTION.

There was great excitement at once and rapid action. The signal for "full speed ahead" was running from bridge to engine-room of every ship and the entire fleet began to move inshore toward the Spanish, and the great 12-inch and 13-inch guns of the battle-ships and the smaller batteries on the other vessels fired shot after shot at long range.

As the ships ran in toward the shore it soon became evident that the Spaniards had not come out to make an aggressive fight, for they turned to the westward as soon as they had cleared the harbor and started on their race for safety, at the same time sending answering shots at the American ships as fast as the men could load and fire the guns.

The Brooklyn, the Massachusetts, the Texas, the Oregon and the Iowa were nearer the Spaniards than any others of the American vessels, but still most of them were too far away to get an effective range. They crowded on all steam, however, in preparation for the chase, never stopping their fire for one moment.

The Gloucester, formerly J. P. Morgan's yacht Corsair, that cannot boast of any heavier battery than several six-pounders and three-pounders, was lying off Aguaduros, three miles east of Morro, when the Spaniards came out. At first she joined in the attack upon a large vessel and then held off. Commander Walnwright concluding to reserve his efforts for the two torpedo-boat destroyers in the rear.

The Gloucester steamed after them when they appeared and chased them to a point five miles west of Morro, pouring shot after shot into them all the time. Her efforts bore abundant fruit, for to her belongs the credit for the destruction of both of the destroyers. She fired 1,400 shots during the chase, and it was not long before both destroyers were on fire and plainly disabled.

THE FUROR TURNED BACK.

Notwithstanding this they both returned the Gloucester's fire, and a shower of small shells fell all around the yacht. The Furor evidently determined that she would not stand the fire any longer, and she put about and headed back for Santiago.

Then the Gloucester simply smothered her with shots from her rapid-fire guns, and, running like the wind, forced her to turn around and again head westward.

Smoke began to rise from the Furor's sides and she put in toward the shore. Before she had gone far, what was left of her crew abandoned her and took to the boats, reaching the shore later. By that time she was a mass of flame and was drifting about helplessly.

The Pluton was in the same distressed condition, and was also headed for the shore, running up alongside of a low bluff, where she soon pounded to pieces and finally broke in two completely. It was a most dangerous landing place for her crew, and only about half of them reached the shore alive.

The Gloucester did not go any further west, but lay off shore and sent in a boat to the assistance of the crews of the destroyers. It did not take the flames long to reach the Furor's magazines and there were two terrific explosions, probably of the gun-cotton aboard of her, which blew holes in her bottom. Her stern sank immediately, and as it settled in the water her bow rose straight in the air and she went to the bottom, giving out a hissing scalding sound as she disappeared below the surface.

BIG SHIPS IN ACTION.

Meantime the larger American ships were gaining on the Spanish cruisers, and a storm of shots was passing between the pursuers and the pursued. The American fire was so rapid that the ships were enveloped in thick clouds of smoke, and it was impossible to tell at the distance which vessels were doing the greater execution.

The Brooklyn and the five battle-ships were keeping up an incessant fire upon the Infanta Maria Teresa, the Vizcaya and the Almirante Oquendo, and the latter were returning it bravely, though with no success. The Spanish gunners seemed unable to get the proper range and many of their shots were wild, though a number of them fell dangerously close to the mark.

The guns of the battery just east of Morro also took part in the game, and their shells fell around the American ships. Many of them struck the upper works of the fleeing Spaniards, and much have resulted in killing and wounding many of their men.

The Spanish ships had now reached a point about seven miles west of Morro and a mile or two beyond the place where the Furor was burning.

The flagship and the Oquendo were the first to show signs of distress. Two thirteen-inch shells from one of the battle-ships had struck the Maria Teresa at the water line, tearing great holes in her side and causing her to fill rapidly.

BURNING SHIPS RUN AGROUND.

The Oquendo suffered about the same fate, and both ships headed for a small cove and went aground two hundred yards from the shore, flames shooting from them in every direction.

The officers and crew must have been aware of the fate which seemed to be before them, but it was not until the ships were on fire and enveloped in flames and smoke that the men ceased firing.

The Gloucester, after sending a boat ashore to the Pluton, steamed along the coast to where the armored cruisers were stranded and went to their assistance. There was danger from the magazines, and many of those on board jumped into the water and swam to the shore, though a number were unable to reach the small strip of sandy beach in the cove and were thrown against the rocks and killed or drowned.

Many of the wounded were lowered into the

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THE VICTORY COMPLETE.

WASHINGTON REJOICES OVER THE NEWS FROM SANTIAGO.

SAMPSON'S FLEET CUTS OFF ESCAPE BY SEA, AND SHAFER HEMS IN THE ENEMY ON LAND.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, July 4.—Not since July 4, 1863, when the news of Vicksburg's fall and Lee's defeat at Gettysburg flashed through the States still in the Union, has this country seen an anniversary of National Independence so jubilant or so marked by patriotic exaltation as that of today, made notable by Admiral Sampson's sweeping naval victory on Sunday off Santiago.

There had been, for reasons of sentiment whose force is patent enough to every American, a keen desire on the part of those charged with the conduct of naval and military operations against Santiago that that stronghold should fall in time to add another glory to those celebrated on the Nation's approaching birthday; but surely no observer familiar with the difficulties to be encountered and overcome by the forces closing in upon the ancient Cuban capital could have been prepared for the dramatic and startling culmination of the siege—the total destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet—which has made the city of Santiago to-day a virtual conquest. Curiously enough, the decisive blow which made surrender inevitable under conditions so gratifying to popular sentiment fell to that branch of the service, the Navy, to which, after much deliberation, had been assigned a merely auxiliary part in the final reduction of the Spanish stronghold. Having hemmed the so-called Cape Verde squadron in Santiago Bay, and having bombarded without wholly silencing the harbor batteries, the West Indian fleet had apparently been relegated to the simple role of closing effectually to Admiral Cervera an exit from the trap in which he was held fast, while to the Army was set the task of assaulting the city from the land side and compelling its garrison to capitulate. The sudden and unexpected, because almost hopeless, effort of the Spanish commander to escape into the open sea, gave to the blockading fleet the opportunity for which it had long been pluming—that of repeating on an equal, if not a greater scale, the signal achievement with which Admiral Dewey started the world two months ago at Manila.

TWO GREAT NAVAL VICTORIES.

Comparison between the victory won by Admiral Dewey off Cavite and that achieved by Admiral Sampson yesterday off Santiago would serve at this time no important purpose. Each has shed an additional lustre on a service whose record has been one of unbroken efficiency and exceptional personal heroism, and each rivals the other not only in the amazing thoroughness with which success was achieved, but also in the extraordinary immunity from injury which the victor, both at Manila and at Santiago, enjoyed. Losses such as those suffered by Admiral Dewey and Admiral Sampson seem almost incredible when set beside the almost total destruction inflicted on the enemy; for both at Manila and at Santiago the list of Spanish dead ran up into the hundreds, while in both engagements together the American loss in killed has proved to be only a single man. Superior strength, skill and confidence account, of course, for much of the disparity in losses, but surely these two naval battles will go on record as among the most phenomenally successful of ancient or modern times.

FULL DETAILS STILL LACKING.

Full details of Sunday's fight outside the harbor have not been received here, but enough information has come from Admiral Sampson to show that the Spanish fleet was forced by the desperate state of the beleaguered in Santiago to make a forlorn-hope attempt to reach the open sea. Realizing that the surrender of the city was imminent, Admiral Cervera had to choose between scuttling or blowing up his ships in the inner bay or subjecting them to the superior fire of the American men-of-war patrolling outside. Like a gallant sailor he chose the latter alternative, and, though he lost his whole squadron in the effort to run the blockade, it seems clear that he made a spirited fight for life, and that his flagship, the Cristobal Colon, was not captured until something like sixty miles west of the harbor entrance. That Cervera was driven to make his desperate sortie by the success of General Shafter's operations of Friday and Saturday implicates the land forces more or less directly in the tragic climax which marked the virtual fall of the city; so that in distributing credit for the successive blows which made its capture a timely offering to patriotic sentiment the Army should receive due recognition for its gallant achievements and willing sacrifices. But it remains obvious that Admiral Cervera's decision really reversed the parts intended to be played in the fall of the city by the two services, and that the Navy's good fortune allowed it at the last to annihilate the only effective force through which the defence from the water side could be maintained by the hard-pressed garrison.

With Admiral Cervera a prisoner and his whole squadron destroyed and captured, Santiago is, of course, no longer tenable in a military sense, and its surrender is supposed now to be only a question of hours. General Shafter, having demanded the capitulation yesterday on pain of bombardment, agreed, on the petition of the foreign consuls, to grant a truce of twenty-four hours, during which non-combatants—especially women and children—could be got out of danger.

It is expected that the American fleet can now pass Morro Castle batteries and enter the harbor, and once inside the inner bay Admiral Sampson would have the city at his mercy.

General Shafter reported this afternoon that Pando's column had been sighted to the north of Santiago, and could be kept from uniting with the forces in the garrison. The termina-

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WINNING ALL ALONG THE LINE.

CERVERA'S ENTIRE FLEET DESTROYED AND THE ADMIRAL A PRISONER.

SANTIAGO AT SHAFER'S MERCY—DEWEY MAY HAVE TAKEN MANILA.

Admiral Sampson reported to Secretary Long of the Navy Department yesterday on the destruction of Cervera's fleet. Not a ship escaped, although one was forced ashore only after a sixty-mile chase. Admiral Cervera and 1,600 of his officers and men were made prisoners. Three hundred and fifty Spaniards were killed and 160 wounded.

General Shafter will begin the bombardment of the City of Santiago at noon to-day, the Spanish commander having curtly and emphatically refused his demand for an instant and unconditional surrender. It was originally intended to begin the bombardment at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, but a delay was granted to permit the foreign residents to leave the city.

Admiral Dewey has probably begun the attack on Manila as, according to Manila advices via Hong Kong, as soon as the American troops arrived on June 30 he began planning for a general assault by land and sea on the Fourth of July.

tion of the siege seems, therefore, at hand. Reinforcements have already been sent to Santiago from Tampa, and in an exchange of messages to-day between General Shafter and General Miles the latter indicated that he would, within a short time, arrive on Cuban soil with additional troops.

PORTO RICO MAY FALL NEXT.

It is said, however, that the prospect of an immediate surrender has now made General Miles' departure from Washington unnecessary. Santiago occupied and garrisoned, the bulk of the American troops in Eastern Cuba will probably be moved, either to Porto Rico, the occupation of which has been so often declared to be the next step in the war programme outlined by the Administration, or be got ready for a campaign against Havana. But a considerable force will be required to remain in and around Santiago for the next four or five weeks. To increase the day's volume of patriotic satisfaction, the Navy Department posted a bulletin this morning from Admiral Dewey, who announced the arrival at Manila of the cruiser Charleston, conveying the three troop ships, the City of Sydney, the City of Peking and the Australia, of the first expedition to the Philippines. By Brigadier-General Anderson's action in seizing the chief island of the Ladrone group, on the way to Manila, a new piece of territory was added to the Nation's domain and a convenient station acquired for the expeditions which are to follow to Manila. Admiral Dewey also reported the surrender to him at Cavite of an additional Spanish gunboat, the Leyte.

A BRILLIANT CLIMAX.

Admiral Sampson's own thrilling announcement of his complete triumph in the destruction of Cervera's fleet was the brilliant climax to the inspiring official dispatches which reached Washington in rapid succession during several hours this morning, and made the celebration of the Fourth of July the most memorable in the history of the Nation. The entire object of the long Santiago campaign had been most unexpectedly accomplished, and in a manner altogether discounting the most fanciful fiction. Apparently without a moment's warning, the greatest naval battle of modern times had been brought about by a startling manoeuvre not as yet comprehended by naval and military strategists, and four of the finest armor-clads afloat had been destroyed, over a thousand naval prisoners captured, and the loss of the victors unparalleled for its insignificance in any notable engagement which has preceded it in history.

Until late last night it was the universal impression among military men that Cervera's squadron alone prevented General Shafter from occupying Santiago. The guns of the Spanish completely commanded the town, and besides effectively checking the advance of the American Army into the basin of Santa, were in a position to cause the widest devastation among General Shafter's forces from the instant they entered the city. For this reason General Shafter contented himself with holding fast to the advanced position his troops had so valiantly taken by assault, and, according to the official advices received here from the front yesterday, it appeared that little could be expected until Sampson forced an entrance to the harbor and disabled the enemy's fleet.

FIRST NEWS DISCREDITED.

Last night's announcement from Colonel Allen, Chief Signal Officer at Playa del Este, that Cervera's fleet had left the harbor and was destroyed was received with utter incredulity, and it was not until a further confirmation came from him in the most positive terms that the reluctance of higher officials was overcome, and they consented to make the dispatches public, declaring that the Spanish fleet had been destroyed. All night direct word was eagerly awaited to obtain an explanation of the remarkable occurrence, and until shortly after noon to-day, when his dramatic Fourth of July offering to the Nation reached Washington, there was much doubt expressed as to the extent of the victory, and particularly as to whether the Battle of Yalu, when the Chinese ran their ships ashore to escape the Japanese, had been simply imitated, or whether the Spaniards had actually fought to the bitter end. General Shafter early in the day dispelled all doubts as to the removal of the Spanish warships from further consideration as elements entering into his operations against the city by reporting the enthusiasm of his army "cheering from one end of the line to the other" at the front when they learned of the crushing disaster to the last important portion of Spain's navy. It was the knowledge of this naval vic-

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DINING CARS A LA CARTE.

On the Chicago vestibule limited train, Leigh Valley Road, leaving foot of Cortlandt, Des Moines and West Twenty-third sts. daily at 7 a. m.—Adv.

TO BOMBARD SANTIAGO.

SHAFER WILL ATTACK THE CITY TO-DAY.

THE SPANISH COMMANDER REFUSED TO SURRENDER—TEXT OF SHAFER'S DEMANDS.

Washington, July 4.—This afternoon the following dispatches from and to General Shafter were given out:

"Playa del Este, July 4, 1898.

"Hon. R. A. Alger, Secretary of War, Washington.

"Headquarters Fifth Army Corps. The following is my demand for the surrender of the city of Santiago:

"Headquarters, U. S. Forces, near San Juan River, Cuba, July 3, 1898, 8:30 a. m.

"To the Commanding General of the Spanish Forces, Santiago de Cuba:

"Sir: I shall be obliged unless you surrender to shell Santiago de Cuba. Please inform the citizens of foreign countries and all women and children that they should leave the city before 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"W. R. SHAFER, Major-General, U. S. A."

THE SPANISH COMMANDER'S REFUSAL.

"Following is the Spanish reply which Colonel Dorst has just returned at 6:30 p. m.:

"Santiago de Cuba, 2 p. m., July 3, 1898.

"His Excellency the General commanding forces of U. S., San Juan River.

"Sir: I have the honor to reply to your communication of to-day, written at 8:30 a. m., and received at 1 p. m., demanding the surrender of this city. On the contrary case announcing to me that you will bombard this city, and that I advise the foreign women and children that they must leave the city before 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, it is my duty to say to you that this city will not surrender, and that I will inform the foreign consuls and inhabitants of the contents of your message.

"Very respectfully,

"JOSE TORAL, Commander-in-Chief Fourth Corps."

BOMBARDMENT DELAYED.

"The British, Portuguese, Chinese and Norwegian consuls have come to my line with Colonel Dorst. They ask if non-combatants can occupy the town of Caney and railroad points and ask until 10 o'clock of 5th inst. before the city is fired on. They claim that there are between fifteen and twenty thousand people, many of them old, who will leave. They ask if I can supply them with food, which I cannot do for want of transportation to Caney, which is fifteen miles from my landing. The following is my reply:

"The Commanding General Spanish Forces, Santiago de Cuba.

"Sir: In consideration of the request of the consuls and officers in your city for delay in carrying out my intention to fire on the city, and in the interest of the poor women and children who will suffer very greatly by their hasty and enforced departure from the city, I have the honor to announce that I will delay such action solely in their interest until noon of the 5th, providing during the interval your forces make no demonstration whatever upon those of my own. I am, with great respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"W. R. SHAFER, Major-General, U. S. A."

SOLDIERS CHEERED SAMPSON'S VICTORY.

"Playa, 9:30 a. m., July 4, Headquarters Fifth Army Corps, near Santiago.—When the news of the disaster to the Spanish fleet reached the front, which was during the truce, the regimental band that had managed to keep its instruments on the line played 'The Star Spangled Banner' and 'There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight.' Men cheering from one end of the line to the other. Officers and men without even shelter tents have been soaking for five days in the afternoon rains, but all are happy.

SHAFER."

CONGRATULATIONS FROM GENERAL MILES.

"Headquarters of the Army,

"Washington, July 4.

"General Shafter, Playa del Este, Cuba.

"Accept my hearty congratulations on the record made of the magnificent fortitude, gallantry and sacrifices displayed in the desperate fighting of the troops before Santiago. I realize the hardships, difficulties and sufferings, and am proud that amid those terrible scenes the troops illustrated such fearless and patriotic devotion to the welfare of our common country and flag. Whatever the results to follow their unsurpassed deeds of valor, the past is already a gratifying chapter of history. I expect to be with you within one week with strong reinforcements.

"MILES, Major-General, Commanding."

General Shafter's reply is as follows:

"Playa, July 4, 1898.

"Major-General Nelson A. Miles, Commanding the Army of the United States, Washington.

"Headquarters Fifth Army Corps, near Santiago.—I thank you in the name of the gallant men I have the honor to command for splendid tribute of praise which you have accorded them. They have borne themselves as American soldiers always. Your telegram will be published at the heads of the regiments in the morning. I feel that I am master of the situation, and can hold the enemy for any length of time. I am delighted to know that you are coming, that you may see for yourself the obstacles which this army had to overcome. My only regret is the great number of gallant souls who have given their lives for our country's cause.

"SHAFER."

For practical use in families and schools, Webster's International Dictionary is indispensable. It is easy to find the word wanted, its meaning and pronunciation. Its accuracy of information is beyond question.—Adv.

CHAUTAUQUA EXCURSION.

\$10.00 round trip by Erie Railroad, July 4. Tickets good until August 31.—Adv.

Our lifetime instantaneous Photographs are better than crayons, 1/2 the price. Rockwood, 1,400 B'way.—Adv.